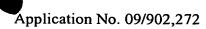
Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

| 1. | (Currently Amended) A pivot assembly for a magnetic disk storage |
|---------------------|---|
| comprising <u>:</u> | an actuator block having an axial bore; |
| | _a fixed shaf t and ; |
| | _a pair of ball bearings mounted thereon to support an the actuator block, each |
| of the pair of | ball bearings having: |
| · | an outer ring having outer and inner peripheral surfaces, the inner |
| peripheral sur | rface having an annular groove at each edge, |
| | an inner ring that directly engages the fixed shaft, and |
| | a pair of shields engaging the outer and inner rings, each shield |
| disposed with | nin the annular groove at said each edge; and |
| | an annular spacer disposed between the pair of ball bearings, the annular |
| spacer having | g an inner axially-extending annular projection and an outer end face, the annular |
| projection ha | ving an outer rim surface, wherein each inner ring of the pair of ball bearings is |
| fixed directly | to the fixed shaft and the pair of ball bearings is fitted directly into-an the axial |
| bore of the ac | ctuator block, the outer peripheral surface of the outer ring directly engages the |
| actuator blocl | k, the outer end face is adjacent to the outer peripheral surface of the outer ring, |
| and the outer | rim surface of the annular projection is adjacent to the inner peripheral surface |
| of the outer ri | ing. |
| 2. | (Currently Amended) A pivot assembly for a magnetic disk storage |
| comprising: | |
| | an actuator block having an axial bore; |
| | _a fixed shaft -and ; |



| a pair of ball bearings mounted thereon to support an the actuator block, each |
|---|
| of the pair of ball bearings having: |
| an outer ring having outer and inner peripheral surfaces, the inner |
| peripheral surface having an annular groove at each edge, |
| an inner ring that directly engages the fixed shaft, and |
| a pair of shields engaging the outer and inner rings, each shield |
| disposed within the annular groove at said each edge; and |
| an annular spacer disposed between the pair of ball bearings, the annular |
| spacer having an inner axially-extending annular projection, the annular projection having an |
| outer rim surface, wherein each inner ring of the pair of ball bearings is fixed directly to the |
| fixed shaft, each of the pair of ball bearings is provided with an outer ring having rings has an |
| outer ring thickness increased by a sleeve thickness of a sleeve conventionally interposed |
| between-a the pair of ball bearings and-an the actuator block, and the pair of ball bearings is |
| fitted directly into-an the axial bore of the actuator block, the outer peripheral surface of the |
| outer ring directly engages the actuator block, the outer end face is adjacent to the outer |
| peripheral surface of the outer ring, and the outer rim surface of the annular projection is |
| adjacent to the inner peripheral surface of the outer ring. |
| 3. (Currently Amended) The pivot assembly according to claim 1, wherein a |
| spacer is interposed between said pair of ball bearings the annular projection engages the |
| shield. |
| 4. (Currently Amended) The A pivot assembly according to claim 1 for a |
| magnetic disk storage comprising: |
| an actuator block having an axial bore; |
| a fixed shaft; |
| a pair of ball bearings mounted thereon to support the actuator block, each of |
| the pair of ball bearings having: |



| an outer ring having outer and inner peripheral surfaces, the inner | | |
|---|--|--|
| peripheral surface having an annular groove at an outer edge of the pair of ball bearings, | | |
| an inner ring that directly engages the fixed shaft, and | | |
| a shield engaging the outer and inner rings and disposed within the | | |
| annular groove; and | | |
| a pair of annular extensions disposed on the outer peripheral surface of the | | |
| outer ring of said each of the pair of ball bearings, wherein each of said pair of ball bearings- | | |
| has an extension formed on one side of an outer ring thereof and the pair of annular | | |
| extensions are fitted into the axial bore of the actuator block, and said pair of ball bearings are | | |
| mounted onto said fixed shaft with said extensions abutted against each other. | | |
| 5. (Currently Amended) The pivot assembly according to claim 2, wherein-a- | | |
| spacer is interposed between said pair of ball bearings the annular projection engages the | | |
| shield. | | |
| 6. (Cancelled) | | |
| 7. (Cancelled) | | |